

Interview of BM1 Thomas Kron USCG

Coxswain on USCG 41”

Prepared by T White

Interviewed 12/14/01 at Station Honolulu

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Assigned to Station as XPO for 7 months. He was standing by for duty coxswain as that person made a supply run into town.

His notification was the Station SAR alarm. The PA announcement accompanying it said a sub had collided with fishing vessel. He got underway with a total of 7 POB, including an MK3 who was a qualified EMT.

Group Honolulu passed Lat/Long via radio after underway. He encountered 6 foot swells, with an occasional 8 foot. He slowed for the 8 footers. He first saw the sail of the submarine, followed by several rafts.

As he approached scene, the CG helicopter wanted to lower the rescue swimmer to the 41 to assist in possible medical treatment. After the hoist transfer, he moved towards a group of three rafts. The RHI told him that an injured man was in one of those rafts. He approached with caution because of the lines in the water. The rescue swimmer jumped into the oil/water and swam to the raft.

The miller board was passed to the raft. After the injured man was strapped in, it was pulled out and put on the 41' deck behind cabin. Several of the survivors were throwing up, one shivering violently. Many had oil in their eyes. The rafts' survival water was used to help wash out their eyes.

At one point the sub got too close and the reflected waves were increasing the sea state. The RHI told the sub to back away and they did.

They loaded 22 survivors on 41'. With the crew and rescue swimmer, total number was 30 POB. The return trip was with following seas. He noticed the 41' was bow heavy and had 8 people move from below to the well deck. The boat trim was then satisfactory.

They returned to Station Honolulu and were met at station boat docks by Honolulu EMS personnel.